



APPARATUS FOR CHANGING OPERATING MODULES ON A  
COORDINATE POSITIONING MACHINE.

5 This invention relates to apparatus for changing  
operating modules on a coordinate positioning machine.  
Co-ordinate positioning machines include, particularly  
but not specifically, co-ordinate measuring machines  
(CMM), machine tools and manual co-ordinate measuring  
arms.

10 Our earlier European patent 0566719 discloses a touch  
probe comprising a retaining module (such as a sensing  
module) and a task module (such as a stylus module).  
The task module is releasably mounted on the retaining  
15 module by magnetic means. A magazine comprising a  
plurality of storage ports is provided for the housing  
of task modules. The storage ports each comprise a  
base with a pair of jaws, the jaws having parallel  
docking inserts.

20 The probe may be mounted on the quill of a machine  
which transports the probe to the storage port into  
which the task module is inserted. The task module has  
a circular lip, the upper edge of which abuts the lower  
25 surfaces of the docking inserts and which is held in  
place by magnetic attraction.

The task module is separated from the retaining module  
by upwards movement of the quill which, as the task  
30 module is retained by the storage port, breaks the  
contact between them.

Such a magazine and task modules enable engagement of a  
task module by a retaining module, and disengagement of  
35 the task module from the storage port in a single  
continuous movement and without any additional machine